

Hosea 6:1-3: Who is speaking?

- Repentant Israelites?
 - In Hosea's time? (Hosea 6:4)
 - In the "last days"? (Hosea 3:5)
- Hosea as a representative Israelite, urging repentance?
- Superficially repentant Israelites?

Repentance—Genuine or False? (1-3)

- True Repentance Defined (Hosea 5:15)
 - Acknowledge guilt.
 - Seek God earnestly.
- False Repentance Demonstrated
 - No confession of sin
 - No real seeking of God

Repentance—Genuine or False? (1-3)

- No confession of sin
 - Departure from God implied (need to return)
 - Injury & potential healing mentioned
 - Assumption that if they go through the right motions, God will do His part.
 - Voltaire: "Forgiveness? That's his job!"
 - Israelites: "We sacrifice; God forgives." (But not without true repentance.)

Repentance—Genuine or False? (1-3)

- No real seeking of God
 - "None of them calls upon me" (7:7b).
 - "Yet they have not returned to the LORD their God, Nor have they sought Him" (7:10b).
 - "I would redeem them, but they speak lies against Me" (7:13b).
 - "They do not cry to Me from their heart" (7:14a).

God's Reaction (6:4-6; 7:2)

- Their loyalty [loyal love, *chesed*] is fleeting (6:4).
 - Like the morning mist
 - Like the early dew that disappears
- Their worship is empty & meaningless (6:6).
 - Disloyal or Unloving (6)
 - Ignorant (6)

God's Reaction (6:4-6; 7:2)

- Their judgment is sure (6:5).
 - God's Words = Action
 - God's Words = Truth (Light)
- Their sins are obvious (Hosea 7:2).
 - Betrayal, Robbery (7:1), Sexual Sins (4), Drunkenness (5), Insurrection (6), Assassinations (7), Sinful Alliances (8, 11), Pride (10), Rebellion (13), Deceit (13), Idolatry (14), Treason against God (14-15)



Figurative Language

- Simile: A comparison using *like* or *as*
- Metaphor: An implied comparison (*like* or *as* missing)
- 6:4—"Your love is like the morning mist, like the early dew that disappears" (NIV). (It doesn't last.)
- 7:4—"Their leaders are 'like an oven.'" Burning with lust for immorality (7:4) and power (7:7). (4 assassinated kings)

Murdered Kings of Israel

King	Murderer
Jeroboam II (793-753)	
Zechariah (753)	Shallum
Shallum (752)	Menahem
Menahem (752-742)	[Natural Death]
Pekahiah (742-740)	Pekah
Pekah (740-732)	Hoshea
Hoshea (732-722)	[Assyrian Prisoner]
Fall of Israel (722 BC)	

Figurative Language

- 7:8—The people are “a cake not turned.”
By mixing with other nations politically and religiously, Ephraim has become baked on one side and raw on the other (half-baked).



Figurative Language

- 7:11—Ephraim is “like a silly dove, without sense.” Easily deceived and fearful, Israel sent diplomats darting between Assyria and Egypt, sometimes paying tribute to Assyria, sometimes seeking aid from Egypt against Assyria.



Figurative Language

- 7:16—“They are like a deceitful bow.”
[faulty, loose, treacherous bow]
- Useless in battle
- Unprepared
- Missing the mark



Assyrian Bowman

Return to God

- Chapters 6-7 begin and end with an emphasis on Israel's need to return to God. Note the word "return" or "turn" in 6:1 ("let us return"), 7:10 (they have not returned"), 7:14 ("They turn away from me."), and 7:16 ("They turn, but not upward").
- Israel's political leaders turned to idols and cursing instead of to God and blessing.

TRUE REPENTANCE

- [Israel,] Take words with you and return to the LORD. Say to Him, "Take away all iniquity And receive us graciously, That we may present the fruit of our lips [praise]" (Hosea 14:2).
- For I delight in loyalty rather than sacrifice, And in the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings (Hosea 6:6).

TRUE REPENTANCE

- If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1John 1:8-9).
- For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise (Psalm 51:16-17).

If you think you've
blown God's plan for
your life, rest in this:
you, my beautiful
friend, are not that
powerful.